

Indian Treaty Series

No. 5



Extracts from the treaty at Albany with the Six Nations

No. 5

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Extracts from the Great Treaty held at
Albany with the Six Nations in the Year 1754. —

The Six Nations being very uneasy on
account of settlements, which the Virginians were making westward of
of the Alleghany Mountains, and of the Deed got from them at Sancauta,
serious complaints were made to the British ministers, and on the
18th of September 1753, the following Royal Instruction was sent to
Sir Danvers Osborne, Governor of New York:

"That nothing may be wanting to convince the Indians of the
" sincerity of our intentions, you will do well to examine into the complaints
" they have made, of being defrauded of their Lands; to take all proper
" and legal methods to redress their complaints, and to gratify them by
" reasonable purchases, or in such other matters as you shall find most
" proper and agreeable to them, for such lands as have been unwarrantably
" taken from them, and for such other, as they may have a desire to
" dispose of: As we find it has been usual on former occasions,
" when an interview has been held with the Indians for the other
" neighbouring Governments in alliance with them to send Commissioners
" to be joined with those of New York, and as the present wavering
" disposition of the Indians equally affects the other Provinces, we
" have wrote to the Governors of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland,
" New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New Jersey, desiring them to
" represent to their respective Assemblies, the utility and necessity
" of this measure, and to urge them to make a proper provision for it;
" and therefore it will be necessary, when you have settled the time and
" place of meeting, you should give them early notice of it; and that
" leads us to recommend one thing more to your attention, and that is,

"to take care, that all the Provinces be (if practicable)
 " comprised in one general treaty to be made in his Majesty's
 " name, it appearing to us that the practice of a Province
 " making a separate treaty for itself, in its own name, is
 "very improper, and may be attended with great inconvenience
 "to his Majesty's Service. -

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"Sep^r 18th 1753 -

"To Sir Danvers Osborne
 "Governor of New York



In consequence of this instruction, a commission was
 opened at Albany, with the Six United Nations of Indians, on the 19th
 day of June 1754, by the Honorable James Delancey (Sir Danvers
 Osborne being then dead) Lieutenant Governor of the Province of
New York, and the following Commissioners from their
 several Provinces. -

For New York	Worshipful Joseph Murray with Johnson John Chambers William Smith	Esquires of his Majesty's Council
For New Hampshire	Theod Atkinson Richard Willard Markell Weare Henry Shuburne	Esquires -
For Massachusetts Bay	Samuel Willis John Chandler Oliver Partridge John Wathington	Esquires -
For Connecticut	William Pitkin Roger Woolcot Elisha Williams	Esquires
For Rhode Island	Stephen Hopkins Martin Howard	Esquires -

For Maryland | Benjamin Tasher } Esquires
Benjamin Barnes }

For Pennsylvania | John Penn
Isaac Norris } Esquires
Benj^a Franklin }
Richard Peters }

For Virginia, ... Lieutenant Governor Delancey of New York

In Council at Albany June 24th 1754, The Commissioners in a Speech to the Six Nations, inform them, that Virginia and Caroline desire to be considered as present, although some great Affairs, which those Governments are engaged in, have prevented their sending Commissioners.

June 24th The Commissioners in a Speech to the Six Nations acquaint them, Your Fathers by their valor, above 100 years ago, gained a considerable Country, which they afterwards of their own accord, put under the protection of the King of Great Britain. The French are endeavoring to possess themselves of this whole Country, although they have made the most express Treaties with the English to the contrary.

We want to know, whether these things (the Conduct of France) appear to you in the same light as they do to us, or whether the French taking possession of the Lands in your Country, and building Forts between Lake Erie and the River Ohio be done with your Consent and Approbation.

The Six Nations answer July 2^d 1754

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The Governor of Virginia and the Governor of Canada are both quarrelling about Lands, which belong to us - and such a Quarrel as this may end in our destruction. They

- They fight who shall have the Land. -
The Governor of Virginia and Pennsylvania have
made Paths through our Country to trade, and
built Houses without acquainting Us with it; They
should first have asked our Consent to build there,
as was done when Oswego was built.

The Commissioners Speech to the Indians
July 3d -

Brethren

We gladly understand that you gave no countenance
to the French who went to the Ohio, and have entered on your Land. -
You did put this Land under the King our Father; He is now taking
care to preserve it for you; for although the Land is under the
Kings Government, yet the Property or Power of selling it to any of
his Majestys Subjects, having Authority from him, we always considered
as vested in you.

We ever did, and do still acknowledge that
Country to belong to you, though within your Father the King
of Great Britains Dominions and under his Protection.

July 5th

The Indians tell the Commissioners -

We return all the Governments Thanks for the
promise of Protection given Us for our Land, and the Acknow-
ledgement, that the Right of selling it, is in Us.

NB The above Treaty is in the Hands of the
Government of Pennsylvania; and Colonel Matlack, Secretary of
the State of Pennsylvania, will attend with the Council Books, if
the Hon^{ble} Committee of Congress think it necessary to authenticate
the foregoing Extracts. - Sam^l Wharton

Extracts from the
Treaty at Albany in 1754.

(N^o 23)

[Signature]

C Nation,

